

Effective Health Care Listening Session January 11, 2006

The Department of Health and Human Services will host a listening session on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 to solicit input on research priorities for the Effective Health Care Program. Initial work in the program originates from Medicare reform legislation signed by President Bush in December 2003. Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) authorizes research, demonstrations, and evaluations to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Federally-administered Medicare program and two programs for which funding and administration is shared with the States: Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

The research and other activities undertaken and authorized by this provision may address:

1. The outcomes, comparative clinical effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care items and services (including prescription drugs).
2. Strategies for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such programs, including the ways in which such items and services are organized, managed, and delivered under such programs.

The statute:

- a. Requires the establishment of a priority setting process for identifying the most important topics to address.
- b. Establishes a timetable for development of an initial priority list and completion of the research.
- c. Requires ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders.

To review the text of Section 1013 of MMA, please visit Section 1013. Research on Outcomes of Health Care Items and Services

<http://www.medicare.gov/MedicareReform/108s1013.pdf> (PDF 21.7 KB) or
<http://www.medicare.gov/medicarereform/108s1013.htm> (text).

Participants in the listening session are asked to focus their comments on:

- 1) Suggested topics for study under the Effective Health Care Program.
- 2) Structure of the priority lists (e.g., disease/condition, type of intervention, effected population, etc.).
- 3) Methods to answer these questions of safety and effectiveness as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The listening session will be held from 9 am to 11:30 am in Holman Lounge (13th Floor) at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC (Metro Center metro station).

Agenda

The morning will be divided into a structured discussion, an open-ended comment period, and time for press availability.

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| 9:00 – 9:45 am | Opening remarks by
Alex Azar, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and
Human Services
Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services
Carolyn Clancy, MD, Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and
Quality |
| 9:45 – 11:30 am | Open Forum |
| 11:30 – 12:00 pm | Press availability |

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to EHCListingSession@ahrq.gov with your name, organization, address, and telephone number. A call-in line has been established for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person; call-in information will be provided when you RSVP.

Participants may provide oral or written comments. Oral comments are limited to three minutes and may be given in person or via telephone. All comments will be posted for public review in an online reading room at www.EffectiveHealthCare.ahrq.gov.

Written comments may be submitted to: EffectiveHealthCare@ahrq.gov.